

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 4, 8, 11 and 13 are amended. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

The courtesies extended to Applicants represented by Examiner Spooner during the July 13, 2005, personal interview, are gratefully appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute Applicants' record of the interview.

The Office Action objects to claims 1, 4, 11 and 13 because of informalities. The claims are amended to overcome the informalities. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the claims is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3, 5, 7-10, 12 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Mase et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,978,820); and claims 4 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Mase in view of Kupiec et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,918,240). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

As agreed during the personal interview, Mase fails to disclose or suggest a system for generating fixed summaries, and an associated method, that includes an informativity determining circuit that determines the informativity of the constituents of at least one phrase based on how much the part of speech of a first constituent modifies the part of speech of a second constituent, as recited in independent claims 1 and 8. Support for this feature can be found in the specification at, for example, page 6, lines 13-30. Moreover, Kupiec fails to cure deficiencies in Mase in disclosing or rendering obvious the features of independent claims 1 and 8.

Because none of the applied references would disclose or suggest the subject matter of independent claims 1 and 8, independent claims 1 and 8, and their dependent claims, are

patentable over the applied references. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-14 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Tarik M. Nabi
Registration No. 55,478

JAO:TMN/tje

Date: July 14, 2005

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461
